

Appl. No. 10/713,335
Att. Docket No. 10191/3416
Reply To Office Action of 11/13/03

REMARKS

Claim 3 is canceled without prejudice, and therefore claims 1, 2 and 4 to 11 are now pending.

Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of this response.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge whether the drawings are accepted or objected to by the Examiner.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents.

With respect to paragraph one (1) of the Office Action, the title has been amended as suggested. Approval and entry are respectfully requested.

With respect to paragraph two (2), the Examiner will be informed of any errors of which Applicants may become aware of in the present application.

With respect to paragraphs seven (7) to eleven (11), Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3, 5, 6, 7, 10 and 11 contain allowable subject matter. While the rejections may not be agreed with, to facilitate matters, claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10 have been rewritten. Claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice since its feature has been included in claim 1. The dependency of claim 11 has been changed from claim 8 to claim 10, since the feature of claim 11 has been included in claim 8. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objections be withdrawn.

With respect to paragraph four (4), claims 1, 2, 4, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Beller, U.S. Patent No. 5,621,518, in view of He et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,545,627.

While the rejections may not be agreed with, claims 1 and 8 have been rewritten, so that these claims are allowable, as are their respective dependent claims 2, 4 (as to claim 1) and 9 (as to claim 8). It is therefore respectfully requested that the obviousness rejections be withdrawn.

Accordingly, claims 1, 2 and 4 to 11 are allowable.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is believed that the objections and the rejections have been obviated, and it is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2 and 4 to 11 are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objections and rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that the present application issue as early as possible.

Dated: 1/20/2004

Respectfully submitted,

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